

Greetings!

Herewith find attached the analysis of selected hands played last Thursday, 19th November 2020, in the **Tribes Bridge Club BBO IMPs Pairs**.

Another interesting set of hands, although not as many slams as the previous week. But some challenging declarer plays and defenses.

I analysed the following hands: Board# 7, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Board#12 saw those bidding 5 ♣ succeeding whereas those who played in 3 NT were less successful! On this hand those that declared a NT contract made anything from 3 to 11 tricks!

Board#18 saw some declarer's LISTEN to the opponents bidding and make winning deductions. Others didn't hear the bidding and paid a price!

Board#21 was a delicate 3 NT that most got right...but some didn't!

Board#223 was a really challenging hand for those defending 3 NT!

As usual, the hands vary in term of complexity and each reflects specific points of interest and learning that I couldn't let pass without a comment! Some hands are analysed in more detail than others. And there are lots of **Saintly** performances by declarers and defenders. And sadly there are even more performances that have been awarded **Sinner** status, even some that earned the award of **Absolute Sinner** status.

I wish that I had more time to do further analysis...

Sorry I can't get this out earlier...the workload is just immense!

Perhaps I should change the format? Personally speaking I feel that the approach that I use is beneficial to individual players and partnerships rather than just giving an overview as to how a hand should be bid, played or defended. But that's just my tuppence. Happy to hear feedback.

Okay, time to get this in the post!

Enjoy!

Paul J Scannell

26th November 2020

P.S. Are you aware that you can review your own results, and access MOV files which re-create the actual play of every contract played at your table...or indeed any table!

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

	♠ 9 7	
	♥ A K J 10 3	
	♦ K 9 7 6	
	♣ 8 3	
♠ K Q 8 4		♠ 6 5
♥ 8 7		♥ 9 6 4
♦ A Q J 8 2		♦ 5 4 3
♣ A 6		♣ K 10 9 4 2
	♠ A J 10 3 2	
	♥ Q 5 2	
	♦ 10	
	♣ Q J 7 5	

NS 3♥; S 2N; N 1N; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +140: NS 2♥+1

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ 8 3 2	
	♥ Q J 8 3	
	♦ 10 6 5 2	
	♣ 9 5	
♠ Q 10		♠ A 7 5 4
♥ K 7 6 2		♥ 10 9 5
♦ A J 8 4 3		♦ 7
♣ 10 8		♣ A K Q 4 2
	♠ K J 9 6	
	♥ A 4	
	♦ K Q 9	
	♣ J 7 6 3	

E 4♣; EW 2N; EW 2♠; EW 2♥; W 3♣; EW 1♦; Par -130; E 1♣+3

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ A J 8 6 3	
	♥ K 8	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ 9 6 5 3	
♠ 9 2		♠ Q 7 5
♥ A J 5 4 2		♥ Q 9 3
♦ Q J 8		♦ A 7 6 2
♣ J 10 8		♣ K 4 2
	♠ K 10 4	
	♥ 10 7 6	
	♦ K 10 9 3	
	♣ A Q 7	

NS 4♠; NS 4♣; NS 2N; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♠

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

	♠ K J 4	
	♥ K 5 2	
	♦ K Q 8	
	♣ Q 10 7 5	
♠ A 9 7 3	<div>W<div>N S</div>E</div>	♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ 8		♥ A 10 7 6 4 3
♦ 10 9 7 2		♦ J 3
♣ A 9 6 4		♣ K
	♠ Q 8	
	♥ Q J 9	
	♦ A 6 5 4	
	♣ J 8 3 2	

EW 3♠; NS 2N; EW 1♥; NS 1♣; Par -140; EW 3♠

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ K 10 8	
	♥ K 6	
	♦ K J 10 6 5 3	
	♣ 8 2	
♠ A Q 7 6 5 2	<div>W<div>N S</div>E</div>	♠ J 9 3
♥ A 10 8 5		♥ J 7
♦ A 7		♦ 8 4
♣ J		♣ A K Q 10 5 4
	♠ 4	
	♥ Q 9 4 3 2	
	♦ Q 9 2	
	♣ 9 7 6 3	

EW 5♠; EW 3N; EW 5♣; EW 2♥; NS 2♦; Par -450: EW 4♠+1

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ J 6 2

♥ Q 7 5

♦ A J 8 5

♣ K 6 5

♠ A 3

♥ K 9 8 4 3 2

♦ K 7 4

♣ A 8



♠ K Q 9 4

♥ A 6

♦ Q 10 6 2

♣ Q 4 3

♠ 10 8 7 5

♥ J 10

♦ 9 3

♣ J 10 9 7 2

W 3♠; EW 3♦; EW 1N; E 1♠; NS 1♥; W 1♣; Par -140: W 2♠+1

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ J 10 9 8		♠ A K 6										
♥ K 8 6 4		♥ 9 5 3										
♦ Q 4		♦ 9 7 6										
♣ J 10 7		♣ A K 6 2										
	<table><tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		♠ Q 5 4										
		♥ J 10 7 2										
		♦ J 8 3 2										
		♣ Q 4										
		♠ 7 3 2										
		♥ A Q										
		♦ A K 10 5										
		♣ 9 8 5 3										

S 3N; NS 4♣; N 2N; NS 2♠; NS 3♦; NS 1♥; Par +600: S 3N

Right-siding 3 NT...not always possible! On this hand, 3 NT by South can make...South's ♥ AQ protects declarer on a heart lead from West whereas 3 NT by North should fail on a heart lead THROUGH South's ♥ AQ. Note that if South does declare 3 NT he/she will need to be careful in the play. It would be criminal to lose the lead to East, when the heart suit has not yet been opened. Also, if North receives a kindly diamond lead declarer needs to keep East off lead so as to avoid the killing heart switch. Playing three rounds of clubs is one way to achieve that because of the fortuitous layout of the clubs suit...West holding the three card holding! Also, if declarer can arrange to lead clubs twice from the South hand then declarer can duck if West produces the ♣ Q thus keeping East off lead. Once the clubs are established declarer can then set about establishing about a third diamond trick to add to 2 spades, 1 heart, 3 clubs to secure nine tricks. In this hand either cashing diamonds from the top, dropping West's doubleton ♦ Q, will work as also will the double finesse, i.e. lead ♦ 9 and finesse and then subsequently finesse ♦ 10. This hand is one of those situations where the bidding system, in particular NT range, can determine the outcome of a hand! Just the luck of the draw! Expect 3 NT to fail and make in roughly equal proportions!

Saints & Sinners

Eighteen declarers played 3 NT of which eight failed to make the contract. At four of those tables where the contract failed, South was the declarer!

At several tables declarer played on hearts and took the heart finesse when under no pressure from the defense. Not a good idea...this should be reserved as a last resort once options with diamonds and clubs have been exhausted.

NO TIME TO DO AN INDIVIDUAL ANALYSIS OF THE PLAY AT EACH TABLE.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A 9 7 3		♠ Q J 10 6
♥ 9 6 5		♥ Q 3
♦ K 8 2		♦ 4
♣ J 10 4		♣ A 7 6 5 3 2
	<div>W<div>N S</div>E</div>	♠ 4
		♥ A J 10 8 4 2
		♦ A Q J 5
		♣ 9 8
		♠ K 8 5 2
		♥ K 7
		♦ 10 9 7 6 3
		♣ K Q

EW 4♥; NS 3♠; EW 2♦; NS 2♣; Par -100: NS 4♠×-1

Board 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K J 4
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ J 9 3
♣ A 6 4

♠ A Q 7 3
♥ 10 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ J 9 2



♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ Q 7 5 3
♦ K 8 6 5
♣ 8

♠ 10 5
♥ A K J
♦ 7 2
♣ K Q 10 7 5 3

NS 5N; NS 5♣; NS 3♠; NS 3♦; NS 1♥; Par +460: NS 3N+2

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 9 5 4		♠ K Q 10 7 3 2	
♥ 6 4		♥ 10 9 7	
♦ K Q 8 5		♦ A J	
♣ J 10 8 6		♣ Q 4	
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W<div>E</div>S</div> </div>		
		♠ A 6	
		♥ K Q 8 2	
		♦ 10 7 4 2	
		♣ K 3 2	
		♠ J 8	
		♥ A J 5 3	
		♦ 9 6 3	
		♣ A 9 7 5	

NS 3♠; EW 2♦; NS 1♥; Par +140: NS 2♠+1

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

	♠ 10 8	
	♥ Q J 6 3	
	♦ Q 7 6 4	
	♣ 10 5 3	
♠ A 3		♠ K J 6 4 2
♥ 2		♥ A 10 5
♦ K J 9 8 5 3		♦ A
♣ J 7 6 4		♣ K Q 9 2
	♠ Q 9 7 5	
	♥ K 9 8 7 4	
	♦ 10 2	
	♣ A 8	



EW 6♣; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 2N; NS 1♥; Par -920: EW 6♣

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ A Q 3 2	
	♥ 10 7 4 3	
	♦ Q 9 8 3	
	♣ 2	
♠ 10 7 6		♠ K 8 5
♥ J 5 2		♥ A K Q 9
♦ A		♦ 10 6
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3		♣ A 10 6 4
	♠ J 9 4	
	♥ 8 6	
	♦ K J 7 5 4 2	
	♣ K 7	

EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; E 1♠; Par -420: EW 4♥

E/W can make 4♥, or 4♣. Indeed 5♣ will make if N/S do not lead spades at trick one! And 1 NT can also be made...but don't expect many E/W pairs to languish at that low level! 4♥ makes on any defense and cannot be beaten...except by declarer. Simple route...win any lead and play ♣ A and another club...then draw trumps and play on clubs! 4 hearts, 1 diamond and 5 clubs!

Saints & Sinners

A NT contract was played by E/W at eight tables. Number of tricks made ranged from 3 to 11!

At one table East opened 1♣, 16+ hcp, West responded 1♦ (less than 9 hcp). East re-bid 1 NT and West raised to 3 NT. South led ♦ 5, declarer winning with dummy's ♦ A perforce. Declarer then finessed ♣ Q to South's ♣ K. N/S now cashed five diamonds and as South led the last diamond East held: ♠ K8, ♥ AKQ, ♣ A10 while dummy held ♥ J5, ♣ J9853. Declarer discarded ♥ 5 from dummy and made the dangerous discard of ♠ 8 from hand instead of discarding ♣ A. South next led a spade to North's ♠ A and the defense proceeded to score three more spades tricks leaving the final result as 3 NT-6. **Sinner** status to **East** who could have emerged with six tricks instead of three!

At another table East opened 1♣, South Passed, and West bid 2♣. North Passed and East re-bid 2 NT which West Passed. South led ♦ 5 against East's 2 NT, declarer winning perforce with dummy's ♦ A as North followed with ♦ 9. Declarer finessed a club to South's ♣ K and a key point in the play had been reached. With all four hands visible it is easy to see that South can continue with a small diamond to North's ♦ Q and that N/S will then cash five diamonds...BUT, South had noted North's ♦ 8 (they play Normal Count Signals, i.e. hi-lo equals even number) and South was concerned that North might have a doubleton diamond and that East held ♦ Qxxx and so, after some thought, South switched to ♠ 4, North rising with ♠ A. Now North put on his thinking cap and eventually continued with a small spade. Declarer didn't need a second invitation and rose with ♠ K and then cashed the remaining tricks to score 2 NT+3. It's good for lesser mortals to see that sometimes even international players get things wrong!

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ A Q 3 2	
	♥ 10 7 4 3	
	♦ Q 9 8 3	
	♣ 2	
♠ 10 7 6		♠ K 8 5
♥ J 5 2		♥ A K Q 9
♦ A		♦ 10 6
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3		♣ A 10 6 4
	♠ J 9 4	
	♥ 8 6	
	♦ K J 7 5 4 2	
	♣ K 7	

EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; E 1♠; Par -420: EW 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At three tables East declared 3 NT on the lead of a small diamond, declarer winning perforce with dummy's ♦ A. Two declarers finessed a club to South's ♣ K. At these two tables both North's had followed to the first diamond with ♦ 3...as discouraging a card as they could play! **Sinner** status to both **Norths**. One South continued with another small diamond and must have been relieved to see partner win with ♦ Q. The other South cashed ♦ K and got lucky when partner showed up with an original holding of four diamonds. At this table, if North had started with only three diamonds then South would not have scored another diamond unless North had started with ♦ Qxx and unblocked the ♦ Q on partner's ♦ K!!! Defenders must convey information about the number of cards they hold in a suit in order to be able to defend effectively. **Sinner** status to the **South** who cashed ♦ K. At these two tables both declarers reduced their hand to ♠ K8, ♥ AK, ♣ A while dummy held ♥ J5, ♣ QJ85. If South continued with a heart after cashing the last diamond, declarer would be forced to play spades from their hand and would have failed by another trick. To avoid this fate all the two declarers needed to do was discard ♣ A and keep a small club with which to access dummy's club winners! **Sinner** status to **both declarers**.

At the third table where 3 NT failed by three tricks, declarer won the diamond lead in dummy as North followed with ♦ 8 and led ♣ Q and rose with ♣ A in hand and continued with ♣ 4, South winning with ♣ K as North discarded ♠ 3. **Saintly** status to **Mary L** in the North seat at this table who managed to convey count signals in two different suits in the first three tricks! South continued with a small diamond to North's ♦ Q. N/S then cashed four more diamonds but declarer was careful with his discards, from dummy and his own hand, and was never in danger of losing more than one additional trick to ♠ A as he reduced his hand to ♠ K8, ♥ AK, ♣ 6 with dummy holding ♥ J, ♣ J985. **Saintly** status to **Liam Faherty**.

At one table East declared 2 NT and failed by two tricks (but could have lost another spade) when reducing to ♠ K8, ♥ AK, ♣ A. **Sinner** status awarded to **declarer**.

Board 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ A Q 3 2		
	♥ 10 7 4 3		
	♦ Q 9 8 3		
	♣ 2		
♠ 10 7 6			♠ K 8 5
♥ J 5 2			♥ A K Q 9
♦ A			♦ 10 6
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3			♣ A 10 6 4
	♠ J 9 4		
	♥ 8 6		
	♦ K J 7 5 4 2		
	♣ K 7		

EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 1N; NS 2♦; E 1♠; Par -420: EW 4♥

Saints & Sinners (continued)

A club contract was declared at nine tables. At four of these E/W reached 5♣ whereas at the other five tables E/W played in a club part-score. Eleven tricks were made at all nine tables. At one table South found the lead of ♠ 9 at trick one. A spade lead and continuation can see declarer held to ten tricks. (I don't favour the lead of the ♠ 9 from this holding (♠ J94) ...the ♠ 4 is the standard lead from this three card holding which includes an honour). Undaunted, North won with ♠ A and continued with ♠ Q, declarer winning with ♠ K. Declarer continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ A and then led ♣ Q, rising with ♣ A in her hand. Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ J (thus exposing her heart holding in hand...if North cannot beat ♥ J then declarer must hold ♥ AKQ in addition to the ♥ 9 she led to dummy's ♥ J!). Declarer next played a heart to her ♥ A and continued with ♥ K...and South's moment of stardom had now arrived....and it passed in a flash as South discarded a diamond! Declarer now led ♥ Q and discarded ♠ 10 from dummy. South, should have ruffed the THIRD heart with ♣ K and cashed ♠ J. **Sinner** status to **South**.

And this happened at another table... East opened a Strong NT and West bid 2♠. I suspect that this may have been a 'transfer' to clubs. But East raised to 3♠ and West now bid 4♣ which East may have thought as **Gerber** and bid 4♠ showing her two aces at which point West decided it was time to hope for the best and he duly passed 4♠. [I have since confirmed with one of the two players that this is indeed what happened, i.e. one player forgot that the 2♠ bid was a transfer to clubs and that was what led to the subsequent auction. This is a regular occurrence when a partnership takes on-board a new convention and all partnerships should be ready to experience an accident or two as the new convention is embedded in their system. It is also a problem when you play different systems with various partners. Also, in this case I think that West made a good decision to Pass 4♠. Bidding 5♣ (East thinking of it as asking for Kings) might have seen the partnership reach the dizzy heights off 6♠!). And of course partner could have held four spades (or even five!). Sadly that was not to be and 4♠ drifted four down. West suggested that if he had alerted 2♠ then partner would have 'remembered' but I explained that '**Alerts' on BBO are only visible to the opponents and NOT to partner!**] No Saints or Sinners here...just a simple bidding mix-up.

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A 7 6 2		♠ 10 5 4
♥ A 7 3		♥ K J 9 4
♦ 9 8 4		♦ 10
♣ 10 7 4		♣ A 9 8 6 3
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W<div>E</div>S</div> </div>	
		♠ Q 3
		♥ Q 8 2
		♦ A Q J 6
		♣ Q J 5 2
		♠ K J 9 8
		♥ 10 6 5
		♦ K 7 5 3 2
		♣ K

NS 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +90: NS 1N

Board 14

East Deals

None Vul

		♠ J 8 7 3	
		♥ Q 5	
		♦ A J 9 6	
		♣ K 3 2	
♠ Q 5 2			♠ A K 9
♥ A K J 10			♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 4 3			♦ Q 8 2
♣ Q 5 4			♣ A J 10 7
		♠ 10 6 4	
		♥ 9 8 4 3	
		♦ 10 7 5	
		♣ 9 8 6	

EW 6N; EW 6♥; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; EW 4♦; Par -990: EW 6N

Good to see that no E/W pair bid a Small Slam. Combined E/W strength is a mere 29 hcp. Even though 6 NT, 6 ♥, 6 ♣ feature in the List of Makeable Contracts above, success in any of these contracts is dependent on dropping North's ♥ Qx which is unlikely to happen. Note that a diamond lead could hold declarer to nine tricks! On any other lead declarer can score 11 tricks.

Saints & Sinners

3 NT was reached at 21 of the 22 tables in play and 4 declarers scored nine tricks, one scored ten tricks, and the remainder scored eleven tricks.

At one table, South led a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q and successfully finessing ♣ J. Declarer continued by finessing ♥ J which lost to North's ♥ Q. North continued with a spade and declarer won in hand with ♠ K...and then lost her way. Declarer continued with a small club to dummy's ♣ Q, losing to North's ♣ K. North continued with a third spade, thus establishing his fourth spade as a winner whilst he still held D♦ A! Declarer emerged with nine tricks. Upon winning the second spade with ♠ K in hand, declarer should have played a heart to dummy and then led C♣ Q thus scoring 3 spades, 3 hearts, 4 clubs, and declarer would also have secured a diamond trick BEFORE North establishes his fourth spade as a winner! **Sinner** status to **East**.

At another table South led H♥ 3 (WRONG...second highest from four small cards, i.e. ♥ 8 in this case. Leading ♥ 3 suggests that South holds a heart honour!), North winning with ♥ Q as declarer followed with ♥ 10 from dummy. North switched to a small spade which declarer won in hand. Declarer now committed the same mistake as outlined above...she played a club to dummy's ♣ Q losing to North's ♣ K. North should have continued with another spade but made the costly play of switching to a small diamond thus enabling declarer to score two diamond tricks...winning this trick with ♦ K in dummy and then playing a second diamond towards her ♦ Q8... **Sinner** status to **North**. BUT, declarer failed to grab this gift and instead cashed her heart, club and spade winners, in that order, and then ended up leading AWAY from her ♦ Q8. Nine tricks and **Sinner** status to **East**.

East Deals
None Vul

EW 6N; EW 6♥; EW 6♣; EW 5♠; EW 4♦; Par -990: EW 6N

At another table East opened 1 ♣ and West bid 3 ♥ (mis-click or mis-bid?)...1 ♥ is more than adequate! East rebid 3 NT. South led ♥ 3 (WRONG...second highest from four small cards, i.e. ♥ 8 in this case.) North winning with ♥ Q. North switched to a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer next led ♣ Q and finessed when North failed to cover. Declarer continued with another club and rose with her ♣ A when North again followed low! Declarer duly cashed heart winners, discarding a diamond from hand and then played a diamond to her ♦ Q and then conceded the remaining tricks to North. **Sinner** status to **declarer** who converted 11 tricks to 9!

At another table East opened a Weak NT and West bid 2 ♣ (Stayman) and rebid 3 NT over East's 2 ♦ response. South at this table also erred by leading ♥ 3 instead of ♥ 8, thus suggesting to partner that she held a heart honour! North won with ♥ Q and switched to ♠ 3, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ Q. Declarer then led ♣ Q and North erred by not covering with ♣ K. Declarer continued with a club to ♣ 10. Declarer continued by cashing dummy's heart winners, discarding a diamond from hand on the fourth heart. Declarer next played clubs and with ♠ AK, ♦ Q8 in hand opposite ♠ 5 ♦ K43, declarer cashed his two top spades and then conceded the last two tricks to North's DA and SJ thus converting eleven tricks into ten! **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 5 2	♠ J 8 7 3	♠ A K 9
♥ A K J 10	♥ Q 5	♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 4 3	♦ A J 9 6	♦ Q 8 2
♣ Q 5 4	♣ K 3 2	♣ A J 10 7

♠ 10 6 4

♥ 9 8 4 3

♦ 10 7 5

♣ 9 8 6

Saints & Sinners

Sinner status to the **Norths** who switched to ♦ 6 after winning with HQ thus enabling declarer to score two diamond tricks!

Sinner status to the **declarer** who finessed ♣ Q, then finessed ♣ J and then cashed ♣ A which could have cost if North had started with ♣ Kxxx.

At one table East opened 1 ♣ and West responded 1 ♥. East re-bid 2 ♥ (re-bidding or opening 1 NT is better). West jumped to 4 ♥ instead of bidding 3 NT and allowing East to convert to 4 ♥ if necessary. North led a spade, declarer winning in dummy with ♠ A. Declarer then finessed ♥ J to North's ♥ Q. North continued with another heart declarer winning in hand. Declarer drew a third round of trumps leaving South with ♥ 8. Declarer then finessed ♣ 10, returned to hand with ♠ Q and finessed C♣ J. Declarer next played a diamond to her ♦ Q, losing to North's ♦ A. North persevered with another spade, declarer winning in dummy with ♠ K. Declarer now cashed ♦ Q and continued with a small diamond, North winning with ♦ J. North applied the *Coup de Grace* by playing a fourth spade forcing declarer to ruff and promoting South's ♥ 8 as the setting trick. Declarer could have got home several ways: lead ♣ Q at second opportunity OR cash ♣ A after winning ♠ K and continuing with ♣ 7, overruffing South's ♥ 8 if necessary. **Sinner** status to West.

Board 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul

	♠ Q 5	
	♥ A K 10 9 4	
	♦ 10 9 7 6	
	♣ J 6	
♠ K 7		♠ J 4 3 2
♥ 8 6		♥ Q J 5
♦ K J 3 2		♦ 8 4
♣ A 10 9 8 5		♣ K Q 4 3
	♠ A 10 9 8 6	
	♥ 7 3 2	
	♦ A Q 5	
	♣ 7 2	

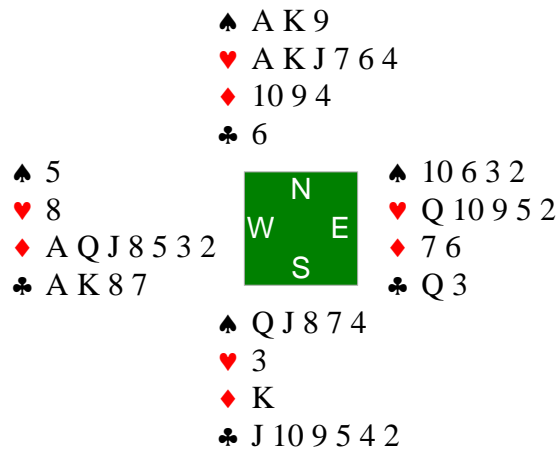


EW 3♣; EW 1N; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; Par -110: EW 2♣+1

Board 16

West Deals

E-W Vul



NS 3♠; EW 4♦; NS 2♥; NS 1♣; Par -100; NS 4♠×-1

A cruel hand...FIVE singletons spread among three hands...and the fourth hand has two doubletons! N/S can make 3 ♠ or 2 ♥ whereas E/W can make 3 ♦. The West hand is TOO good for pre-emptive 3 ♦ opening and as a consequence West will likely open 1 ♦ and will then compete. Whichever side wins the auction is likely to be too high!

North Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 10 3
 ♥ Q 7 5 4
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ 9 8

♠ J 7 6
 ♥ J 10 9 8 3 2
 ♦ 10 4 2
 ♣ 6

♠ 5 2
 ♥ A K 6
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A K Q 7 5 3 2

♠ A 9 8 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q J 9 7 6 3
 ♣ J 10 4

N
 W E
 S

E/W can make 6 NT and East can make 6 ♣. The 4-3 heart fit can only produce nine tricks.

Absolute Sinner status to the West who raised partner's 6 ♣ to 7 ♣ turning a sizeable +8.33 imps into a -10.33 Imps. That's a swing of nearly 19 imps on one board!

East at another table had a fatal lack of concentration when declaring 6 ♣. She drew two rounds of trumps and then led a heart towards dummy only to see South ruff with ♣ J and then cash ♠ A for a one trick defeat!

At another table West declared 6 NT on the unusual lead of ♥ 8 (J is a standard lead from J1098). Once declarer cashed two top clubs she knew that she had twelve tricks in her grasp...3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 7 clubs. The opening lead clarified the heart suit for North and declarer! Declarer decided to spurn the option of trying to sneak a spade trick and instead set about cashing her clubs hoping that N/S might have difficulty with their discards. There isn't any legitimate squeeze that declarer can exert on either North or South but as often happens when the defenders have to discard on dummy's (or declarer's) long suit, mistakes will happen! In this instance North should simply watch declarer's hearts and match them. North can also afford to discard all his spades, in particular as happened here where declarer discarded all four spades from her hand on dummy's long clubs! And South felt pressure in discarding diamonds and spades. In fact North discarded a diamond and South discarded four diamonds leaving declarer to score the last trick with ♦ 8!

Saintly status to **Margaret McCarthy** for successfully executing a pseudo squeeze on the opposition.

Board 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A J 3	♠ 8 7 6	♠ 10 4 2
♥ A K 9 8	♥ 7 4 2	♥ Q 5 3
♦ Q J 10 7 5	♦ 9 8 6	♦ A 4 3 2
♣ 2	♣ Q 9 8 7	♣ K J 10

N

W

E

S

♠ K Q 9 5

♥ J 10 6

♦ K

♣ A 6 5 4 3

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 2♣; Par -460; EW 3N+2

3 NT is the best spot to play. Some E/W partnership may reach the dizzy heights of 5 ♦D which is included in the List of Makeable Contracts above...BUT success in 5 ♦ is dependent on dropping South's singleton ♦ K which is unlikely to happen unless declarer is a thinking player! Otherwise, declarer should lose a spade, a diamond, a club! Eleven tricks also available in NT.

Saints & Sinners

At one table declarer used information gleaned from the bidding to assist him in the decision to play to drop South's ♦ K. South opened 1 ♣, West made a takeout Double, North passed and East bid 1 NT. South bid 2 ♣, West bid 2 ♦ and East raised to 3 ♦, North led ♣ 7, declarer playing ♣ 10 from dummy as South won with ♣ A, declarer following with ♣ 2. Without stopping to think, or thinking along the wrong lines, South returned a club into the jaws of dummy's ♣ KJ, giving declarer two spade discards from hand. South should have known that West had a singleton club and should have switched to ♠ K, hoping the partner had ♠ Jxx. With ♣ 765432 all accounted for, North either has a singleton (HIGHLY unlikely on the bidding) or else has ♣ Q987 or possibly ♣ Qx7. To return a club into dummy's ♣ KJ can only assist declarer. **Sinner** status to **South**. But the first trick also gave declarer some valuable information because he could now place ♣ Q in the North hand in which case South surely held all the other missing high cards for her bidding. Declarer backed his thinking and cashed ♦ A at trick three, dropping South's ♦ K. Declarer duly made twelve tricks, one of only two declarers to cede just one trick! **Saintly** status to declarer, **Michael O'Connor**.

At the other table, South opened 1 ♣, West overcalled 1 ♦, East raised to 3 ♦ and West bid 5 ♦. Again, North led ♣ 7, South winning with ♣ A and returning a club into dummy's ♣ KJ. Declarer won the club return in dummy and cashed ♦ A, felling South's singleton ♦ K. Declarer discarded her second losing spade on dummy's third club and thus made twelve tricks. **Saintly** status to **Anne Killilea**... and **Sinner** status to **South**.

At another table West overcalled 1 ♦ after South opened 1 ♣. East bid an underwhelming 2 ♦ and West bid 5 ♦. North led a heart and declarer won in hand and led a diamond to dummy's ♦ A, felling South's ♦ K. Eleven tricks to declarer and **Saintly** status to **Pat Ward**.

Board 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ 8 7 6	
	♥ 7 4 2	
	♦ 9 8 6	
	♣ Q 9 8 7	
♠ A J 3		♠ 10 4 2
♥ A K 9 8		♥ Q 5 3
♦ Q J 10 7 5		♦ A 4 3 2
♣ 2		♣ K J 10
	♠ K Q 9 5	
	♥ J 10 6	
	♦ K	
	♣ A 6 5 4 3	

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 2♣; Par -460; EW 3N+2

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At four tables East declared 3 NT after South opened 1 ♣.

At two of these tables South led a club to North's ♣ Q and declarer's ♣ K. Declarer next played a heart to dummy and led ♦ Q finessing into South's singleton ♦ K! At both of these tables South cashed ♣ A and in one case then continued with a club, declarer winning with ♣ J. **SOUTH SHOULD HAVE KNOWN FROM TRICK ONE THAT EAST HELD THIS CARD. Why so?** Because North played ♣ Q at trick one, **DENYING POSSESSION OF ♣ J!** At the other table South cashed ♣ A and then switched to ♠ K...but the spade switch was now too late. Declarer could now count 1 spade, 4 hearts, 4 diamonds, 2 clubs. Had both South's switched to ♠ K **BEFORE** cashing ♣ A declarer would have been held to ten tricks! **Sinner** status to both **Souths**.

At another table East also declared 3 NT after South opened 1 ♣. South led a club and declarer beat North's ♣ Q with her ♣ K. Declarer at this table then cashed ♦ A, felling South's singleton ♦ K and now could have had twelve tricks in her sights! If declarer leads ♣ 10 (or ♣ J) from hand then that will establish declarer's remaining club as a winner. Adding 2 clubs to 1 spade, 4 hearts, 5 diamonds totals twelve tricks! **BUT**, declarer cashed her diamonds and hearts and ultimately lost a spade and ♣ A to South. **Declarer...a Saint and Sinner, all in one!**

At a fourth table South also opened 1 ♣ and East declared 3 NT. South led a small club to North's ♣ Q and declarer's ♣ K. Declarer played a heart to dummy and finessed ♦ Q into South's ♦ K. South could read the writing on the wall and continued with ♠ K thus establishing a third trick for the defense whilst still holding ♣ A! **Saintly** status to **Frank Davey** in the South seat.

At another table East bid 2 ♦ in response to West's Takeout Double of South's opening bid of 1 ♣. West next bid 2 ♥ and East bid 2 NT. West should surely have raised to 3 NT or 5 ♦. South led ♠ 5 which declarer won with ♠ 10. Declarer continued with a heart to dummy's ♥ A and then finessed ♦ Q into South who won with ♦ K. South cashed ♣ A and then continued with ♣ 3 into declarer's ♣ KJ. Declarer emerged with eleven tricks but could have been held to ten if South had continued with ♠ K.

Board 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ 8 7 6	
	♥ 7 4 2	
	♦ 9 8 6	
	♣ Q 9 8 7	
♠ A J 3		♠ 10 4 2
♥ A K 9 8		♥ Q 5 3
♦ Q J 10 7 5		♦ A 4 3 2
♣ 2		♣ K J 10
	♠ K Q 9 5	
	♥ J 10 6	
	♦ K	
	♣ A 6 5 4 3	

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 2♣; Par -460; EW 3N+2

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At two tables East declared 5♦ after South opened 1♣. At one table South led ♥J, declarer winning in dummy and then finessing ♦Q into South who won with ♦K. South next cashed ♣A and then switched to ♠K. South got lucky in so far as declarer did not have ♣KQx in which case South has just let out the contract as declarer could discard two losing spades on ♣KQ! South should have played ♠K after winning ♦K. Now, even if declarer has ♣KQJ they cannot establish the winners on which to discard dummy's spade losers without first conceding a trick to South's ♣A who could then cash ♠Q for one down! **Sinner** status to **South**.

At the other table South also opened 1♣, West made a takeout Double and East bid a modest 1♦ which could have been bid on 0 hcp. Nevertheless, West jumped to 5♥ and was lucky to find East with a whopping 10 hcp which was not reflected by the initial bid of 1♦. South led ♣A and is awarded **Sinner** status for not leading ♠K. As outlined above, if East actually held ♣KQx then South's opening lead has just handed the contract to declarer.

At six other tables E/W contracted a diamond part-score after South had opened the bidding with 1♣ and all declarers emerged with ten tricks when South at each table scored a trick with the singleton ♦K.

At one table West declared 3♦ after South opened 1♣. North led ♠6 and **South** earns **Sinner** status for playing ♠K instead of ♠Q! Declarer emerged with eleven tricks when she led a diamond to dummy's ♦A, felling South's ♦K. **Saintly** status to declarer, **Sheelagh McInerney**.

At another table East declared 2♦ after South opened 1♣ and rebid 2♣ (if bidding again, South should re-bid 1♠ not 2♣) over East's 1♦ response to West's Takeout Double. South cashed ♣A and switched to ♠5 (♠K is better) and declarer rose with ♠A instead of letting it run to her ♠10. Declarer then finessed ♦Q, losing to South ♦K. South then cashed ♠KQ holding declarer to nine tricks. South should have played a diamond to ♦A so as to cash ♣K and discard a losing spade from dummy. If declarer had let the spade round to her ♠10 she could have discarded dummy's losing spade on ♣K and cashed ♦A for TWELVE tricks! **Sinner** status to **declarer** and **South**.

Board 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

	♠ 8 7 6	
	♥ 7 4 2	
	♦ 9 8 6	
	♣ Q 9 8 7	
♠ A J 3		♠ 10 4 2
♥ A K 9 8		♥ Q 5 3
♦ Q J 10 7 5		♦ A 4 3 2
♣ 2		♣ K J 10
	♠ K Q 9 5	
	♥ J 10 6	
	♦ K	
	♣ A 6 5 4 3	

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 4♠; EW 5♦; EW 2♣; Par -460; EW 3N+2

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table East also declared 2♦ after South opened 1♣ and rebid 1♠ over East's 1♦ response to West's Takeout Double. West raised partner to 2♦ and that closed the auction. South led ♥J, declarer winning in hand. South then made the highly unusual play of a leading a small diamond away from her ♦A432. South gratefully won with her singleton ♦K and now switched to ♠K, declarer winning with dummy's ♠A. Declarer cashed two more diamonds winners and then led a club ...to her ♣K! (If there's one card that South is guaranteed to have it's the ♣A!). South continued with a small club and declarer, who could have ruffed in dummy, discarded a spade as North won with ♣Q. North made no mistake and switched to a spade won by South with ♠Q. Declarer emerged with nine tricks. This was a hand that was played without any reference to South's bidding and declarer was duly rewarded. **Sinner** status to **declarer**.

Looking at the results of this hand it would appear that very few declarers seemed to pay any heed to the implications of South's bidding. One of the things that I always do as a defender, and also, where appropriate, as declarer (also as dummy!), is to make a rough assessment, where possible, of the point counts that might be held by each player, in particular taking note of bids or passes! For instance if your right-hand opponent opens 1NT and as soon as you make the opening lead and dummy is placed on the table, count dummy's high card points. Add it to the middle of the NT point range and add your own high card points and subtract the total from 40. The resultant figure is a reasonably accurate reflection of partner's high card holding. When defending and as partner shows up with various honour cards during the play you can begin to determine certain other honour cards that your partner cannot or might hold! It might seem to be difficult at first but persevere with it and it will become easier over time!

Also, it is useful to ascertain the distribution of each defender's hand which can be similarly useful. For example, if a defender leads a card that is known to be 4th best then it is easy to quickly calculate how many cards in that suit that his/her partner holds (count the cards you and dummy hold in the suit, together with the four (or more!) that the defender on lead has shown and subtract the total from thirteen...and that's the number that the other defender holds!

Counting, counting...all the time!

Board 19

South Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ K Q 10 9 8 7	
	♥ A 4	
	♦ Q 2	
	♣ 9 7 2	
♠ 6 2		♠ J 5
♥ K 9 7 3		♥ Q J 10
♦ 8 6		♦ A K 10 7 5
♣ A K J 5 4		♣ 10 8 6
	♠ A 4 3	
	♥ 8 6 5 2	
	♦ J 9 4 3	
	♣ Q 3	

EW 3♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -130: EW 4♣

4♥ does not feature in the list of makeable contracts above...but N/S need to know how to defeat it...and not many will! At first glance it would appear that declarer can score 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, 5 clubs...ten tricks! But try this for a defense...N/S play 3 rounds of spades. If declarer ruffs the third round in hand then South will eventually score ♥ 8 in addition to North's ♥ A...one down. If declarer ruffs the third round in dummy and leads ♥ Q then North can win and play another spade, declarer ruffing with dummy's last trump and South will eventually score a trick with ♥ 8...one down. If N/S switch to any other suit after winning the first two tricks then declarer can force out H♥ A and subsequently draw the remaining trumps and cash 5 clubs tricks. Even if N/S continue spades after winning ♥ A, declarer can still ruff in dummy and access declarer's hand via ♣ A and draw South's outstanding trumps and then cash club and diamond winners for ten tricks.

E/W can make 4♣. And N/S can score eight tricks in spades but should make no more with the defense scoring 1 heart, 2 diamonds, 2 clubs! BUT, the defense could easily go astray and declarer might emerge with nine tricks! E/W will have to establish their heart trick before they establish dummy's ♦ J as a winner and a discard for declarer's losing heart!

Saints & Sinners

At one table West contracted 4♥ after North had shown six spades. The defense cashed two top spades, South winning the second round with ♠ A. South now continued with ♣ 3, declarer rising with ♣ A. Declarer next led a heart, North winning with ♥ A and continuing with a club to South's ♣ Q and declarer's ♣ K. Declarer next played a heart to dummy's ♥ QJ, winning with ♥ J and then continued with ♥ Q...and floored the contract when she failed to overtake with ♥ K in hand, cash ♥ 9 drawing South's last trump and claim!!! Careless by a player who is usually a careful and thoughtful declarer. **Sinner** status awarded to **declarer**.

At one table E/W overbid and declared 5♣-2. **Sinner** status awarded

At three other tables E/W played in 4♣ making exactly ten tricks. Nothing to the play or defense.

South Deals
E-W Vul

EW 3♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -130: EW 4♣

At the remaining seventeen tables N/S declared a spade contract.

At five tables 3 ♠ was defeated by one trick. The question is whether it was good defense or poor declarer play? At one table, East cashed two top diamonds and continued with a third diamond to dummy's ♦ 9, West ruffing with ♠ 6 as declarer overruffed with ♠ 7. Declarer now has nine tricks... simply cash two top trumps ending in dummy and then cash ♦ J discarding ♥ 4 from hand. BUT, declarer cashed ♠ KQ and then played ♥ A and another heart, handing the defense an unnecessary heart trick. **Sinner** status to **North** and **East**.

South Deals
E-W Vul

EW 3♥; EW 4♣; NS 2♠; EW 2♦; Par -130: EW 4♣

At another table, North declared 3 ♠ after West opened 1 ♣, North overcalled 1 ♠, East bid 2 ♦ and South bid 2 ♠ which was Passed to East who bid 3 ♦, North closing the auction with 3 ♠. East cashed two top diamonds and then switched to ♣ 6, West cashing ♣ AK and then switching to ♥ 3... The contract can no longer be beaten...except by declarer! Declarer can win with ♥ A, cash two top trumps and then ruff a club in dummy and cash ♦ J discarding ♥ 4 from hand. Nine tricks to declarer. BUT...declarer cashed two top spades ending in hand and then played...a heart conceding a trick unnecessarily to the opponents for a one trick defeat! **Sinner** status to **North**... and to **East** who should have switched to a heart at trick 2.

At two tables East led **♦ A** and switched to **♥ Q** at trick two. Sainly status to **Breda Cunningham** and **Norma O'Connell** for finding the decisive heart switch to defeat the contract.

At three tables East led a club to partner who cashed ♣ AK before switching to ♦ 8, East cashing ♦ AK. Both Easts then switched to ♥ Q...but the horse had bolted. **Sinner** status to **East** and **West**.

Board 20

West Deals

Both Vul

	♠ Q 10 9 6 3	
	♥ J 8 6	
	♦ J 10 4	
	♣ J 3	
♠ 8 5 2		♠ J 7
♥ 10 9 2		♥ A K Q 7 4
♦ A 7 6		♦ 9 3 2
♣ K 9 4 2		♣ 10 7 6
	♠ A K 4	
	♥ 5 3	
	♦ K Q 8 5	
	♣ A Q 8 5	

NS 3♠; NS 3♦; NS 2♣; EW 1♥; Par +140: NS 1♠+2

Nine tricks or ten tricks in spades? It all depends on what East does after cashing two top hearts! To hold declarer to nine tricks the defenders need to score two more tricks. The two possibilities are: 1) switch to a diamond...OR..2) switch to a club. If West holds ♣ K and ♦ A then a club switch is paramount because if East plays a diamond declarer may be able to discard a losing club from hand on a long diamond in dummy. Alternatively, a club switch may only cost if declarer has a doubleton ♣ KJ and a doubleton small diamond...but in that case E/W cannot stop declarer from scoring ten tricks! Note that if East does switch to a club and West wins with ♣ K, it may be necessary for West to cash ♦ A immediately otherwise, if declarer started with ♣ Jx and ♦ xx, then declarer may be able to discard his two losing diamonds on dummy's ♣ AQ!

Saints & Sinners

At two tables North declared 4♠. At both tables East cashed two top hearts and switched to a diamond and that was the end of the defense. East has to protect his partner's potential holding ♣ K and must switch to a club rather than a diamond. N/S gained 10.57 imps instead of losing 4 imps! **Sinner** status to both **East**s.

At one table South opened 1♦, North bid 1♠ and when East Passed South bid 2 NT. This contract could have been defeated by TWO tricks if West leads a heart. West cashes five hearts and switches to a club. Declarer can win and cash five spades and finish two down. BUT, West had no reason to lead a heart and led a club instead and declarer duly finished with ten tricks! Many Easts would have bid 2♥ and in this competition many did!

At another table South opened 1♣, North responded 1♠, East Passed and South re-bid 3 NT. West led ♣ 2, declarer rising with dummy's ♣ J which held the trick. Declarer next cashed five spades as East discarded one heart and two small diamonds while West discarded a club and a diamond. Declarer next led ♦ J, West winning with ♦ A and then playing a heart, East cashing four heart tricks to beat the contract by one trick. Perhaps East should have retained all five hearts and discarded a club instead. **Sinner** status to **South** who should only re-bid 2 NT particularly in the absence of good intermediate cards, 10s and 9s.

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J 10 4
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ K 6
♣ A J 9 7

♠ K 8
♥ K 10 9 4 2
♦ A 10 2
♣ Q 6 2

♠ Q 9 6 5 3
♥ J 5
♦ 9 7 3
♣ 10 8 4

♠ A 7 2
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J 8 5 4
♣ K 5 3

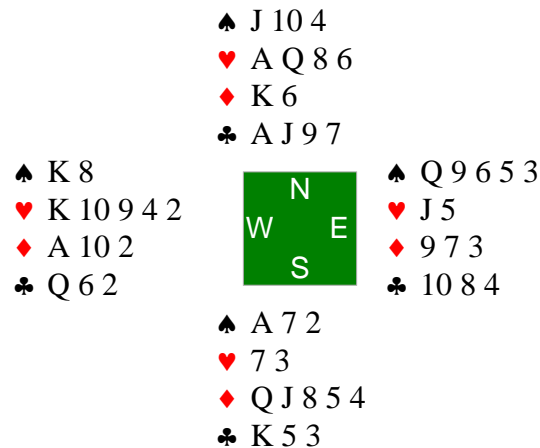
W N E S

The list of makeable contracts includes 5 NT by N/S as well as 5 ♦ and 5 ♣. If North opens 1 ♣ and South bids 1 ♦ then West might get in a bid of 1 ♥ which, if nothing else, would be lead-directing for East if North subsequently bids NT. Even with the lead of ♥ J, declarer can always amass at least nine tricks via 1 spade, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds (a lucky 36% 3-3 break!), 2 top clubs. And extra tricks can be gathered by a successful finesse of ♣ J combined with the fact that the suit breaks 3-3. Indeed declarer can make eleven tricks. Christmas came early for declarer with this hand!

3 NT became the contract at all 22 tables.
7 declarers emerged with eleven tricks
4 declarers gathered ten tricks
8 declarers won nine tricks
and 3 declarers failed with just eight tricks!!!

At one table North opened 1 ♣, South responded 1 ♦ and West overcalled 1 ♥. North re-bid 1 NT, which was raised to 3 NT by South and East led ♥ J which held the first trick. East continued with a heart to West's ♥ 9 and declarer's ♥ Q. Declarer played a club to dummy's ♣ K and led a diamond towards her hand. What might have been interesting is if West rose with ♦ A and switched to ♠ K!!! Now, South would need to have unblocked the ♦ K on West's ♦ A and hope that the suit breaks 3-3. Why declarer did not lead ♦ K from hand after winning with ♥ Q is a mystery to me. Anyway, declarer won the first diamond in hand with ♦ K and continued with a diamond to dummy's ♦ J, West winning with ♦ A and continuing with ♥ 10 which declarer won with ♥ A. Declarer now had no option except to play a spade to dummy's ♠ A whereupon she cashed ♦ Q as West followed with ♦ 10 and East discarded ♠ 3. I suspect that declarer forgot that East had discarded a diamond on the third round of hearts on the previous trick because declarer next played a club to her ♣ J, cashed the ♣ A and duly conceded the last three tricks to the opponents with dummy's two winning diamonds now isolated in dummy! One down and **Sinner** status to **declarer**. It is vital to keep track of the NUMBER of cards played in a long suit including those discarded by the defenders!

North Deals
N-S Vul



Saints & Sinners (continued)

At another table, after an identical bidding sequence to that outlined in the previous example, East also led ♥ J which declarer won with ♥ Q. At this table declarer also played a club to dummy's ♣ K and led a diamond towards her hand, West following with ♦ 10 as declarer won with ♥ K. Declarer continued with ♦ 6 to dummy's ♦ Q as West followed with ♦ 2. Perhaps declarer felt that the diamonds were breaking 4-2 in which case she did not have enough remaining entries in dummy to play two more rounds of diamonds and get back to the winning fifth diamond! So, declarer abandoned the diamond suit and led a club instead, West rising with ♣ Q as declarer won with ♣ A. Again, perhaps fearing that the clubs were breaking 4-2 and that East held ♣ 10xxx, declarer switched tracks again and led ♠ J from hand, East playing low and declarer rising with dummy's ♠ A. Declarer now led ♣ 3 and when declarer followed with ♣ 6 declarer finessed ♣ 9 to West's ♣ 10. East continued with her remaining heart, declarer winning with ♥ A, cashing ♣ J and then conceding the remaining tricks to West for one down! Whether or not West intended her play of the diamonds and clubs to intentionally mislead declarer I do not know but we award **Saintly** status to West, **Sheelagh McInerney** for her false-carding which caused declarer to go astray. However, declarer could have made life easier for herself by playing ♦ K from hand whilst retaining ♣ K as an entry. Thus when declarer does subsequently continue diamonds she still has TWO entries to dummy to check the diamond distribution and to take the club finesse and play the suit for four tricks. In respect of the club suit, West's play of C♣ Q on the second round of the suit would be almost suicidal for a player holding ♣ Q10xx. There is practically no way that declarer will take an immediate finesse of ♣ 9 to be followed by a finesses of ♣ J. Also, West, IF holding ♣ Q10xx, should play low on the second round of the suit. SO, when declarer leads the third club from dummy declarer should play West for ♣ Qxx and not ♣ Q10xx.

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J 10 4
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ K 6
♣ A J 9 7

♠ K 8
♥ K 10 9 4 2
♦ A 10 2
♣ Q 6 2

♠ Q 9 6 5 3
♥ J 5
♦ 9 7 3
♣ 10 8 4

♠ A 7 2
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J 8 5 4
♣ K 5 3

W N E S

Saints & Sinners (continued)

Seven declarers scored 11 tricks in 3 NT on the lead of a spade or a heart by playing diamonds and subsequently finessing ♣ J and scoring 1 spade, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds and 4 clubs. **Saintly** status to **Rhona Bolger, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Sean Glynn, Rory Timlin, Marion Coy, Deirdre Corbett**. **Sinner** status to the **two Easts** who failed to lead ♥ J after partner overcalled 1H♥. **Saintly** status to **Frank Reynolds** who DID lead ♥ J in response to his partner's 1♥ overcall, even though it made no difference to the final outcome. Next time it might make a difference!

Sinner status to the **West** who made an inappropriate Double after North opened 1 ♣ and South bid 1 ♦. West should simply overcall 1 ♥. A Takeout Double in this situation promises support for BOTH unbid suits!

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ 4 3	
	♥ A J 8 5 3	
	♦ A K 6 5	
	♣ J 7	
♠ K Q 10 8 6		♠ J 9 7
♥ Q 6 4		♥ 10 7
♦ J 10 3		♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ K 6		♣ A 9 8 3
	♠ A 5 2	
	♥ K 9 2	
	♦ 9 8	
	♣ Q 10 5 4 2	

NS 4♥; NS 2N; NS 3♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

Making 4♥ may prove difficult for those that reach this contract. Declarer must play on clubs and use ♥ K as a subsequent entry for the established clubs... Declarer must win the spade lead, finesse ♥ J, and then play clubs and subsequently play a heart to dummy's ♥ K and then lead clubs through West's ♥ Q... West will eventually ruff with ♥ Q and declarer can overruff and then ruff a diamond to access dummy and cash the remaining clubs. In 3♥ declarer has a simple route to nine tricks... ruff a diamond in dummy and then cash ♥ K and finesse ♥ J giving declarer 1 spade, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 diamond ruff...

Saints & Sinners

At two tables where North declared 4♥, both Easts led a small club to West's ♣ K who then returned a club to East's ♣ A. Both Easts now switched, at one table to a spade, and at the other to a diamond. The two declarers won the respective switches, finessed ♥ J, cashed ♥ A and played a third heart to dummy's ♥ K. Both declarers then cashed dummy's three club winners, discarding the two losing diamonds and one spade from hand. Eleven tricks to declarer and **Saintly** status to **Marion Coy** and to **Sue Madden**. And **Sinner** status to the **two Wests** who should have switched to ♠ K after winning ♣ K.

At another table North declared 4♥ after West opened 1♠. East led a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ♠ A. Declarer played three rounds of diamonds ruffing the third round with ♥ 2. Declarer next played a club to his ♣ J, East winning with ♣ A. East now played ♠ J and followed with another spade to West's ♠ Q, declarer ruffing with ♥ 3. Declarer led his fourth diamond and probably sighed when East followed with ♦ Q thus confirming that West was now void. Declarer ruffed with ♥ 9 which was overruffed by West's ♥ Q. West continued with a heart, declarer winning with dummy's now stiff ♥ K. Declarer played a club West winning with ♣ K. West continued with ♠ 10 which declarer ruffed with ♥ J. Declarer then cashed ♥ A drawing the remaining trumps. One down. A good effort by declarer but very dependent on a specific trump layout, i.e. that East had started with precisely ♥ Q10, thus ensuring that West could not overruff ♥ 9! Another option when East showed up with the fourth diamond would have been to ruff with ♥ K and hope that West held a doubleton ♥ Q10. After ♥ K wins declarer could then finesse his ♥ J, cash ♥ A, and if West did hold the doubleton ♥ Q10 then declarer could cash ♥ 8, drawing East's ♥ 7. But that option wouldn't have worked either.

Board 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

	♠ 4 3	
	♥ A J 8 5 3	
	♦ A K 6 5	
	♣ J 7	
♠ K Q 10 8 6	<div>W N E</div>	♠ J 9 7
♥ Q 6 4		♥ 10 7
♦ J 10 3		♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ K 6		♣ A 9 8 3
	♠ A 5 2	
	♥ K 9 2	
	♦ 9 8	
	♣ Q 10 5 4 2	

NS 4♥; NS 2N; NS 3♣; EW 1♠; NS 1♦; Par +420: NS 4♥

Saints & Sinners

Absolute Sinner status to the SIX declarers who failed to score nine tricks in a heart part-score.

In most cases declarer drew trumps without ruffing even one diamond in dummy and duly lost 1 spade, 2 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

In some cases declarer cashed two top trumps, promoting West ♥ Q as a winner, and although they secured one diamond ruff in dummy they duly lost 1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 2 clubs!

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ A Q 10 7
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A
 ♣ A 10 9 6 4 3 2

♠ 8
 ♥ A 7 5 4 2
 ♦ J 10 8 6
 ♣ Q 8 5

♠ J 9 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ K 7 3 2
 ♣ K 7

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ K J 10 8 6
 ♦ Q 9 5 4
 ♣ J

N
 W E
 S

3 NT can make...but if declarer received a diamond lead from either defender there is only one route to nine tricks...and it's not via the club suit! If declarer plays on clubs then he can lose 2 diamonds, 2 clubs, and ♥ A...one down. The lucky layout of the heart suit can see declarer score 3 hearts, 3 spades, 2 diamonds, and ♦ A. And the defenders cannot score more than one club trick if they have to play the suit! But, who's likely to play on hearts? Note... if West holds a doubleton club honour, i.e. ♣ Kx or ♣ Qx, then declarer can score six club tricks by finessing the ♣ J into East. And on a non-diamond lead, declarer has time to establish five club tricks and will score at least nine tricks. And 5 ♣ has no chance...declarer loses two trumps and ♥ A.

At one table declarer emerged with twelve tricks. I've worded that carefully and when you see what happened you will understand! North opened 1 ♣ and subsequently bid spades as South bid hearts and diamonds. East led ♦ 2, and West played ♦ 8, declarer winning with ♦ A, thus clarifying the layout of the diamond suit for East, i.e. West must have ♦ J10. Declarer next led ♥ 9 and let it run. When it won, declarer led a club from hand and East rose with ♣ K. East now played the only card of the ten left in her hand that could give declarer nine more tricks! East continued with ♣ 7!!! After rattling off five clubs East fatally discarded a second spade despite knowing that declarer held at least four spades...East could have safely discarded ♥ Q or ♦ K. Declarer emerged with twelve tricks. The bidding suggests that declarer holds at least five clubs. The play to trick one also suggests that declarer is short in diamonds. **Absolute sinner** status to **East** who would probably have seen 3 NT fail by continuing with another diamond.

At another table North declared 3 NT after bidding clubs and spades. East led \spadesuit 2, West played \spadesuit 8 and declarer won with \spadesuit A. Declarer played a club from hand and East rose with \clubsuit K. Another diamond from East sees the defense score 2 diamonds, 2 clubs and \heartsuit A to beat the contract. BUT, East made the fatal switch of a small spade (into declarer's second bid suit!) which not only gave declarer a soft trick with \spadesuit 10 BUT also gave declarer 'the tempo'. Declarer won, cashed \clubsuit A and continued with a club to West's \clubsuit Q. West continued with \spadesuit J, declarer discarding \heartsuit 9 from hand, dummy's \spadesuit Q winning as East ducked! Declarer cashed the rest of the tricks emerging with eleven in total. **Sinner** status to **East**.

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 8
♥ A 7 5 4 2
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ Q 8 5

♠ A Q 10 7
♥ 9
♦ A
♣ A 10 9 6 4 3 2

♠ J 9 5 4 2
♥ Q 3
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ K 7

♠ K 6 3
♥ K J 10 8 6
♦ Q 9 5 4
♣ J

W N E S

Saints & Sinners (continued)

At yet another table South declared 3 NT after North bid clubs and spades and where South had bid hearts twice. West found the systemic lead of $\spadesuit 10$, promising $\spadesuit J$, declarer winning perforce with $\spadesuit A$. Declarer led a club from dummy, East rising with $\clubsuit K$ and returning a diamond which West won as declarer discarded a spade from dummy. West played another diamond to East's $\spadesuit K$ and at this point the contract is doomed to fail. If declarer continues with trying to establish clubs then West will score $\clubsuit Q$ and $\heartsuit A$ for a one trick defeat. BUT, the hand took a couple of unexpected turns before the finale! After winning with $\spadesuit K$ East continued with $\heartsuit Q!!!$ It's easy to see how calamitous this switch is when we can view all four hands. BUT remember, East could only see the singleton $\heartsuit 9$ in dummy! Declarer covered with $\heartsuit K$ from hand as West won with $\heartsuit A$ and continued with a diamond to declarer's $\spadesuit Q...$ and that was the end of the defense as declarer could now count nine tricks... Declarer has already scored one trick with $\spadesuit A$ and at this point has $\spadesuit K63$, $\heartsuit J1086$, $\spadesuit Q$ in hand with dummy holding $\spadesuit AQ10$, $\clubsuit A1096$. Declarer had already scored $\spadesuit A$ and $\spadesuit Q$ and with $\spadesuit AKQ$, $\heartsuit J108$, and $\clubsuit A$ to come that's nine tricks! An unfortunate switch by East, in particular where declarer is known to hold at least five hearts.

At one table North declared the hopeless 5 ♣. Switch the E/W club holding and it makes.

At five other tables N/S played in part-scores, all making.

Board 24
 West Deals
 None Vul

	♠ J 3	
	♥ Q J 5 2	
	♦ K 10 5 2	
	♣ Q 9 8	
♠ A 9 8 7 4	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 40px; height: 40px; background-color: green; color: white; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 5px;"> W N E </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; padding: 0 5px;"> S </div> </div>	♠ K Q
♥ K 7		♥ A 10 6 4
♦ Q 6		♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ K J 6 4		♣ A 7 3
	♠ 10 6 5 2	
	♥ 9 8 3	
	♦ A J 8	
	♣ 10 5 2	

W 3N; EW 3♠; EW 4♣; E 2N; EW 2♥; EW 2♦; Par -400: W 3N